

White Teachers Told How Histories Omit Our Roles

YOUNG NEGRO GRADUATES HAVE NO IDEA OF PART PLAYED BY RACE

Excerpts from an address delivered before a predominantly white sociology class at the New Jersey State Teachers' College, at Trenton, January 12, by Lorenzo Harris, sculptor and historical painter.

The result of ignoring this material is that the young boy who comes out of high school college today, and in many cases those who choose the teaching profession, enter their careers handicapped with either colossal ignorance, or worse, are stuffed with libelous misinformation in regard to the part that the colored race has played in American and world history.

For instance, the average student will blithely tell you that the colored Americans belong to a child race, and will patronizingly concede that they have made remarkable progress since President Lincoln freed them seventy-seven years ago. That observation is ridiculous.

Important Throughout History
The colored race was an important factor in establishing and maintaining the oldest civilization in recorded history. Eighteen coal blacks ruled on the throne of Egypt, which antedated the glory of Greece and the grandeur of Rome.

Thomas III, the greatest Pharaoh of them all was a dead ringer, in personal appearance, of several colored ministers of my acquaintance. Ethnically speaking, Egypt is today, and always has been, a mulatto civilization, with the complexion range running from black to ochreous. The face of the Sphinx is clearly the sculptured portrait of a colored man.

Built Great Pyramid
Pharaoh Cheops, a colored man, built the Great Pyramid, one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. After the fall of the Roman Empire and the advent of the dark ages in Europe, the Negro, Moore, again came to Europe - a civilized Spain and acted as a cultural force which gave birth to the Renaissance in Europe.

History Courses Misleading
Coming to the American scene, American history as generally taught in American schools throughout this land has been unfair in its presentation of the part played by the colored race in the building of America. You are told a

about Christopher Columbus, but not about Alonso Pietro, the colored pilot of Columbus' flagship, the Nina.

Every American school child learns of Ponce de Leon and Ferdinand DeSoto, but I doubt if any of you have heard of Captain Estevanico, the colored man who led the exploration party to Arizona and New Mexico, opening up the Southwest.

I wonder how many, if any, American schools are teaching their pupils that Baptiste de Sable, a colored man was the first settler in Chicago.

Heroes With Washington
Do you know that 5,000 of the 30,000 troops under George Washington's command were colored soldiers? Did you know that the martyred hero of the Boston Massacre, a colored man named Crispus Attucks, was the first man to die for American Independence?

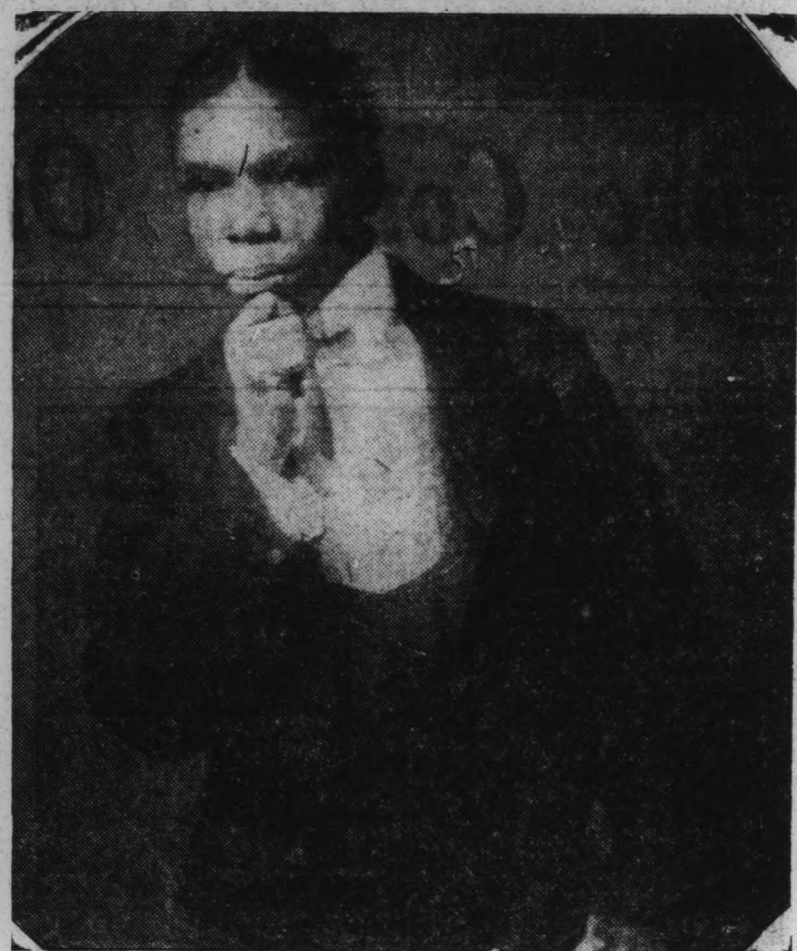
Did you know that Phoebe Francis, a colored girl saved George Washington from an almost successful poison plot engineered by Tories and the opposing British high command in the early days of the American Revolution?

Do you know that the present shrine of the Sons of the American Revolution in New York City was originally owned and operated as a hotel by a colored man, Samuel Francis? It was in this hotel that Washington made his farewell address to his officers, and it was in this place that Samuel's daughter Phoebe, saved Washington from death by poison.

Saved Union
Have you read in your school histories that Peter Salem, a colored man, killed the British command officer at the Battle of Bunker Hill? I don't know very seriously whether there is being taught, anywhere in American schools, the important part that colored troops played in saving the Union in the Civil War.

Abraham Lincoln said on numerous specific occasions that without the colored troops the North would lose the war. Very little emphasis is given in our schools to the fact that the first man to reach the North Pole was Matthew Henson, a colored American.

The Illustrious Dunbar



PAUL LAWRENCE DUNBAR.

poet, was born at Dayton, Ohio in 1872. He graduated from the Dayton High School, worked as a journalist in New York, and in the Congressional Library. He was well known as a public reader of his own poems, many of which were in dialect. Among his publications

are "Oak and Ivy" (1893); "Lyrics of Lowly Life" (1896); "Poems of Cabin and Field" (1899); "Lyrics of Love and Laughter" (1903) "Li'l Gal" (1904); and "Lyrics of Sunshine and Shadow" (1905). He also wrote two novels, "The Sport of the Gods" and "The Fanatics" (1907).

WPA INVENTORY

(Continued from 10)

them freed, and Chief Justice Morrison Waite, an Ohioan, who had been appointed by President Grant, wrote the opinion. High points were:

That sovereignty, for the protection of life and personal liberty within the respective states, rests alone with the states. That it is no more the duty of the Federal government to punish for conspiracy to murder than it is to punish for murder itself; such duty rests upon the state.

That the fourteenth amendment is to prevent denial to citizens of a state the rights of protection of the laws of the state; that the state, not the United States, endows its citizens, with the voting right and that the fifteenth amendment can operate only against the encroachment of this right.

Attorneys General view this opinion as returning to the south the claims of state's rights, claims bitterly fought for during 1861-65. In Louisiana, it is said, it gives basis for the existing primary election laws which are considered restrictive.

So far reaching in consequence, the opinion has been ranked by historians as of equal importance with President Hayes order a year later removing Federal troops from Louisiana. This Colfax, community of some 1,200 persons, situated on the Red River, takes its niche in American jurisprudence.

In addition to the history of Grant Parish the inventor, Mr. Crutcher said, contains much data on record and document keeping where these can be located, functions and duties of the various officials and outlines of agency procedure extending from the police jury to home demonstration units, thus constituting a local encyclopedia of government as an archival bibliography.

This is the eleventh such inventory, published by the survey, Mrs. Crutcher reported, and it is being distributed to all predecessors have been to all clerks of court in the state and to other Louisiana officials and libraries. A limited number of copies are sent outside agencies and libraries.

"The inventory is invaluable to the student, the attorney, the notary, the abstractor and the business man must have access to the public records," said the administrator. "It is issued under the official sponsorship of the department of archives, Louisiana State University, and the co-sponsorship of Grant Parish police jury and school board."

Mr. Crutcher pointed out that the Alexandria district include supervision over historical records survey work in nine parishes: Avoyelles, Catahoula, Grant, Concordia, LaSalle, Natchitoches, Rapides, Sabine, and Vernon.

The report shows progress in all phases of work contemplated by the survey in this district. In addition to the parish archives inventories begun in all except Concordia where there is a lack of certified workers, an inventory of churches is being made, the first publication to be issued shortly. Police jury minutes are being transcribed in six parishes and indexing of conveyance records in Avoyelles and LaSalle and indexing of marriage records in Natchitoches underway.

Yet another part of the survey's work is the inventorying the municipal archives. For the Alexandria district, initial checks have been made in Alexandria, Natchitoches, Colfax, Converse, Noble, Olla,

NEGROES FUTURE

(Continued from 10)

duct of Lincoln, and the life and conduct of the Negro, I feel that the careful and sincere student of Lincoln and of the Negro admit that the Negro has many traits like those of Lincoln. Lincoln's sweetness of disposition, his great patience of the wrong, his lack of memory for injustice, for forgiving spirit, his readiness to wait for the slow and patient development of opportunities, find a likeness in the Negro's patient and tenacious advance up from slavery. Gradually the Negro is now entering more and more fully and securely into American citizenship and life. In the future he will think more intensely, work more intelligently, and plan more definitely for the great task of true citizenship.

We are today, in the midst of a World War catastrophe and times that the careful and sincere student of Lincoln and of the Negro admit that the Negro has many traits like those of Lincoln. Lincoln's sweetness of disposition, his great patience of the wrong, his lack of memory for injustice, for forgiving spirit, his readiness to wait for the slow and patient development of opportunities, find a likeness in the Negro's patient and tenacious advance up from slavery. Gradually the Negro is now entering more and more fully and securely into American citizenship and life. In the future he will think more intensely, work more intelligently, and plan more definitely for the great task of true citizenship.

Why should nations in this age have to resort to war to settle their differences?

And yet, envisaging the universal indignation at the attitude of the dictators, we are led to feel that this world-wide concern must mean that the spirit of altruism and brotherhood is not dead. The world is not going to the dogs. While we know that the fate of our Republic is bound up with the fate of the world, we must not lose our heads. Forms and types of civilization may pass away as they have passed away, but the population of the world today is greater and more prosperous than ever; greater forms of civilization today than the ancients ever knew. Hence, no possible world catastrophe can permanently destroy the farthest reaches of our present civilization.

Therefore, why should the Negro despair with reference to his future? Can we not find enough in our past success to warrant the expectation that we shall be able to make the grade in our great country against any fate? We are getting more and more in step with advancing civilization. Let us patiently and wisely contend, as other citizens contend, for every right, immunity, and privilege accorded to any other citizens. As laborers, as farmers, as masters in industry, religion, and business, as scholars, scientists, and artists, let us seek to integrate more definitely ourselves into the thought and action of the American national set-up.

Let us realize that no individual or race or nation can succeed without intelligent hard work and judicious savings from their work. We must solve our own economic problems. Convinced that Lincoln was our benefactor and that our future is hopeful, let us make ourselves a more active and valuable asset.

I am willing to conclude that nowhere else in the world should the Negro have a better chance to think, act, to worship God as he pleases and achieve for himself as other human beings, than here in America. Ours may be a hard way; whose is not? We can take it. Let's go forward.

Pleasant Hill, Leesville, Many, Marskville, Tullos, and Zwolle while the Jena inventory has reached a rechecking and editing stage in the project's state office at New Orleans.

Negroes Did Not Accept Slavery Meekly As Charged by Historians

By STANLEY RAPPEPORT

This study, a thesis by a student at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Md., is yet more testimony against the popular, but erroneous idea that Negroes accepted slavery meekly and did nothing to gain their freedom.

There are in the United States several national groups which are persecuted, and a part of the persecution consists of attributing to these minority groups, undesirable characteristics. The Jews are said to be extortionate bankers and Communists (inconsistency never bothers the bigoted), the Gypsies are all thieves, the Chinese are cunning creatures plotting tortures in incense-reeking dens, and the Negroes are "inferior" and servile-minded, created to take, but not to give, orders. These popular misconceptions arise in a society the leaders of which mouth loyalty to abstract truth while disseminating or preserving all untruths which it is to their advantage to keep alive. They build universities which are devoted to the search for truth where lectures teach there is no scientific basis for theories of racial inferiority, that in the United States equal opportunity exist for all, while at the same time in the administrative offices applications of students for admission are rejected because of the color of nationality of the applicant. While some of the colleges and universities are teaching that Negro and white are possessed of equal native ability, there are few which have corrected their distorted narrative of the Negro in American history. He was a meek, servile creature born to be a slave, completely lacking in those noble aspirations which inspire men to fight and to die for freedom and liberty. His freedom had to be handed to him on a silver platter. So say the textbooks with which many of our young people are being miseducated.

Some trade union leaders speak in the same vein when they say that Negroes are "natural born scabs" who have no "fight" or "guts" no loyalty to an organization. This view is being cast aside as experience indicates what loyalty fighting union members Negroes can be when they are given a chance. The best examples in recent years are the struggles of backward, uneducated sharecroppers and tenant farmers of Arkansas and Alabama, some of whom have given their lives that their union might grow and gain improved conditions for all.

While activity in working class and other organizations has proved that the Negro has all that "it takes" to win his freedom, the history books go on merely perpetuating the legend that the slaves accepted their slavery like the ox his yoke, until the noble, white northerners came south and said "you may go free." The true story is quite different. From the first attempt in Africa to enslave the black man until he had achieved local freedom he fought, and fought, and fought with every means at his disposal, at every opportunity, with all his strength and cunning, to wrench the onerous yoke from his neck.

Captured Slave Ships
The history of the slave trade abounds in instances of successful struggles against the slave traders on the coast of Africa and of revolts - - - sometimes successful, more frequently abortive - - - aboard slave ships. In 1699 the Portuguese lost four ships through slave uprisings. In 1700 the slaves killed a member of the crew of a slave ship and injured others, and were only subdued after 28 of them had been killed or drowned.

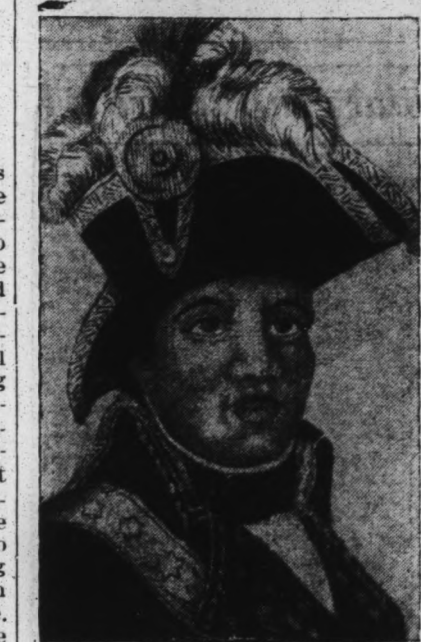
In 1729 slaves on the galley "Clear" sailing for South Carolina seized the vessel, landed the crew on the beach, and the "Clear" ashore and made their escape. Two years later another successful escape was effected by slaves on the African coast. They murdered the captain and all but three of the crew. Captain John Major of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, was similarly murdered with all his crew and his ship and cargo were seized by the slaves on board in 1732. On American ships were attacked and destroyed in 1759 by African natives as the sailors were attempting to round up a cargo of slaves.

These are just a few of the numerous instances of newly captured slaves fighting valiantly for their freedom. These struggles became so frequent that slave traders were obliged to insure their ships against slave insurrections. The records of the slave trade contain several references to the cost of insuring a vessel against an uprising by the captives.

The question may be raised as to whether all these revolts were motivated by a deep-seated love of freedom or by some other purpose. According to Captain Barbot, master of a large slave ship, "Some of the captives mutiny because of a fear that they will be eaten while others became desperate - - - on account of their captivity." When a captain of a slave ship makes a statement like the one above it is safe to say that the majority of the mutineers took such action because they wished to be free to roam the African forests again. Naturally fear as to their uncertain future was also a factor.

The slaves not only mutinied when they were close to the coast but sometimes when the ship was

A Study In Negro Life And History



TOUSSAINT L'OUVERTURE
WENDELL PHILLIPS' EULOGY OF TOUSSAINT L'OUVERTURE

"I am about to compare and weigh races; indeed, I am engaged tonight in what you will think the absurd effort to convince you that the Negro race, instead of being the object of pity or contempt which we usually consider it, is entitled, judged by the facts of history, a place close by the side of the Saxon. Now races love to be judged in two ways - by the great men they produce and by the average merit of the mass of the race."

"Now, blue-eyed Saxon, proud of your race, go back with me to the commencement of the century, and select what statesman you please. Let him be either American or European; let him have a brain the result of six generations of culture; let him have the ripest training of university routine; let him add to it the better education of practical life; crown his temples with silver of seventy years; and show me the man of Saxon lineage for whom his most sanguine admirer will wreath a laurel rich as embittered foes have placed on the brow of this Negro - rare military skill, profound knowledge of human nature, content to blot out all party distinctions, and trust a state to the blood of its sons - anticipating Sir Robert Peel fifty years, and taking his station by the side of Roger Williams before any Englishman or American had won the right; and yet this is the record which the history of rival states makes up for this inspired black of St. Domingo."

"I would call him Napoleon, but Napoleon made his way to empire over broken oaths and through a sea of blood. This man never broke his word. 'No Retaliation' was his great motto, and the rule of his life; and the last words uttered to his son in France were these: 'My boy, you will one day go back to St. Domingo; forget that France murdered your father' I would call him Washington, but the great Virginian held slaves. This man risked his empire rather than permit the slave-trade in the humblest village of his dominions."

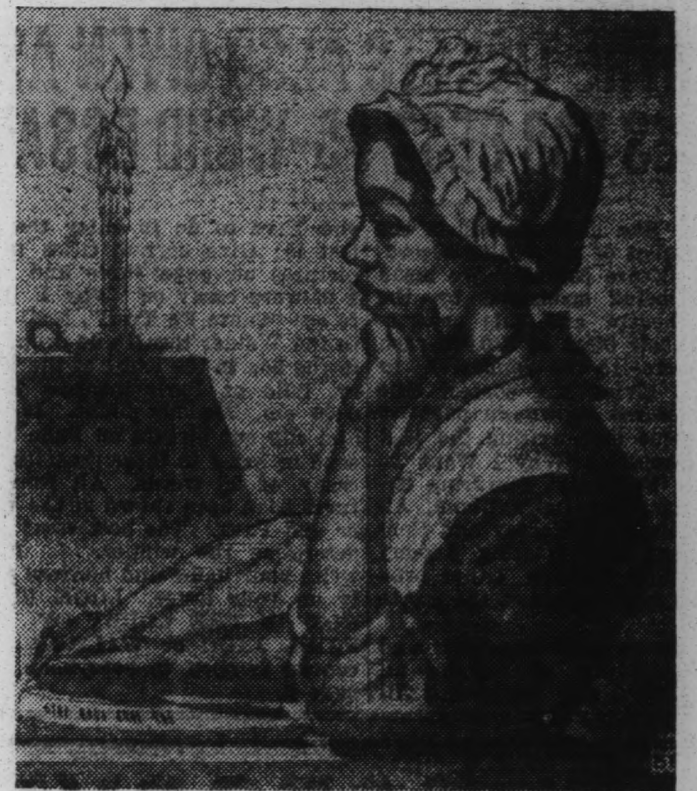
"You think me a fanatic tonight, for you read history, not with your eyes, but with your prejudices. But fifty years hence, when Truth gets a hearing, the Muse of History will put Phocion for the Greek, and Brutus for the Roman, Hampden

some distance out. Knowing little about navigation some perhaps having never seen the ocean before, they had to gamble on getting back by good luck or by forcing 'some member of the crew to act as navigator. Is 1730 a cargo of slaves mutinied when the ship was at sea. They took the officers prisoners, piloted the boat back to Africa and made their escape leaving the crew uninjured."

Some of the cases indicate that the captives were willing to go to any length to rid themselves of their short but galling bondage. In 1774 they rose against the crew of a slave ship, but being chained they were unable to make prisoners of the sailors. Knowing that chained as they were they would be drowned, 28 men and 2 women, nevertheless jumped overboard preferring a watery death to a servile life. The captain of the ship in describing the incident remarks that those who drowned were the best individuals in the cargo. In the same year that the American Colonies were declaring their determination to achieve their independence these thirty slaves gave their lives in a magnificent declaration for all oppressed and enslaved peoples. Innocent though they were of any such noble purpose we cannot consider their heroic action in any other light as it is such brave deeds which keep the desire for freedom glowing in the human breast."

But the most dramatic and heroic case occurred in 1735, when the slaves on board the ship "Dolphin" of London rose against the crew off the coast of Africa. The crew was able to prevent the captives from seizing control of the ship but the latter got into the powder room. There they held council and decided that with the loss of their freedom life lost its charm, and so they blew up the whole ship."

First In Literature



First to win recognition for the Negro in American literature, Phillis Wheatley, who was brought to the United States from Africa by slave traders at the age of seven. The poetical works of Phillis Wheatley are being hailed this week in the display of books by and about her in the exhibit on the contribution of Negro women to American civilization at the Schomburg Collection of Negro History and Literature at the West 135th Street Branch Library.

for England, Fayette for France, choose Washington as the bright, consummate flower of our earlier civilization, and John Brown the ripe fruit of our noonday, them, dipping her pen in the sunlight will write in the clear blue, above them all: the name of the soldier, the statesman, the martyr, TOUSSAINT L'OUVERTURE."

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